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**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1101  
Vienna, 26 May 2016**

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**EU Statement on the release of Nadiya Savchenko and her  
return to Ukraine**

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The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement by High Representative/Vice President Mogherini:

“Finally, Nadiya Savchenko is free and back in her country. The Ukrainian pilot was released today from a Russian prison - in exchange for the release of two Russian prisoners, in an overdue gesture of human compassion.

We wish her a prompt recovery after her long imprisonment.

The EU encourages all parties to build on these positive steps, and to implement the "Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements", including the commitment therein to release all hostages and detained persons related to the conflict in eastern Ukraine.”

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.